

## ■ Litany for Racial Justice

Wise and loving God,  
you have created – and are still creating –  
a world rich with difference and diversity.  
You have created all people in your image,  
each expressing their being and living their life  
in valid, special relationship with you.  
For all this, we praise you.

For historic acts of injustice and oppression  
perpetuated against Aboriginal communities,  
Black, and Japanese and Chinese communities  
in this abundant land of the First Nations:  
Forgive us, merciful God.

For the times we have failed to recognize racism  
in ourselves, in our church, and in our society,  
and the times we have failed to take action,  
Forgive us, long-suffering God.

For complicity in systems of privilege and power  
over those whose skin colour, culture, or creed  
differ from those of the majority, even today:  
Forgive us, compassionate God.

Grant us courage never to let a racist joke  
pass in our hearing,  
daring to insist on equitable treatment  
of all persons and groups,  
including ourselves if oppressed,  
even at the risk  
of being unpopular or misunderstood;  
We beseech you, God of justice.

Grant us patience in enduring periods of non-action,  
persistence in resisting the evil of racial oppression,  
and faithfulness in working toward racial justice  
among your people in the church and in the world:  
We beseech you, God hope.

And grant us humility and wisdom to discern  
when it is that your Spirit must come to accomplish  
that which human beings and groups cannot.  
we pray in the name of Jesus, himself, the bread of justice and the cup of solidarity. *Amen.*

Wenh-In Ng, from *That All May Be One: A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice*  
(Justice Global and Ecumenical Relations unit, The United Church of Canada, 2004, p77)